

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Previously Amended) A computer network system used to inform concerned entities that a person has died comprising:

a patient care facility notification center which transmits a death notice to a funeral home informing the funeral home of the death of the patient;

a funeral home to receive the death notice from the patient care facility notification center, said funeral home being linked by a computer network to concerned entities;

said concerned entities being linked to said computer network of the funeral home to receive the death notice, and

said concerned entities including an insurance company having a policy on the patient who has died and the Social Security Administration.

Claim 2. (Original) The computer network system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said concerned entities linked to the computer network and the funeral home also include a government entity charged with maintaining vital statistics within a community including deaths.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The computer network system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said patient care facility notification center is linked to said funeral home by a digital transmitting medium and hardware capable of transmitting a digital signal from the patient care facility notification center which can be received by the funeral home.

Claim 4. (Original) The computer network system as claimed in claim 3, also including a pension plan administration office linked to said funeral home through the computer network to receive and transmit digital signals.

Claim 5. (Amended Here) A computer network based method to transmit death notices to concerned entities comprising the steps of:

a) providing a death notice from a patient care facility to a funeral home;

b) [...] the funeral home transmitting via a computer network the death notice to concerned entities linked to the funeral home including any insurance companies and the Social Security Administration; and

c) [...] said concerned entities that receive said death notice from the funeral home retaining data transmitted and acting on said data to provide any compensation due to beneficiaries of the patient covered by the death notice.